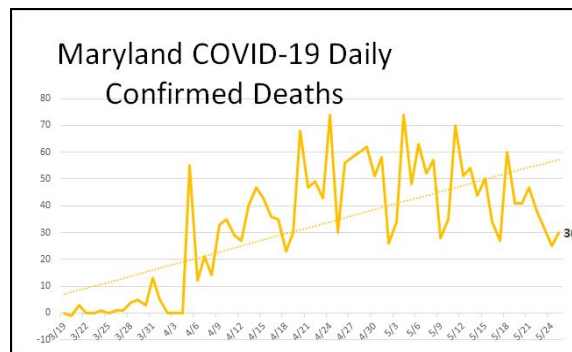
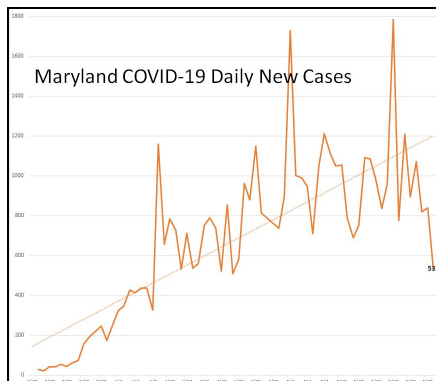
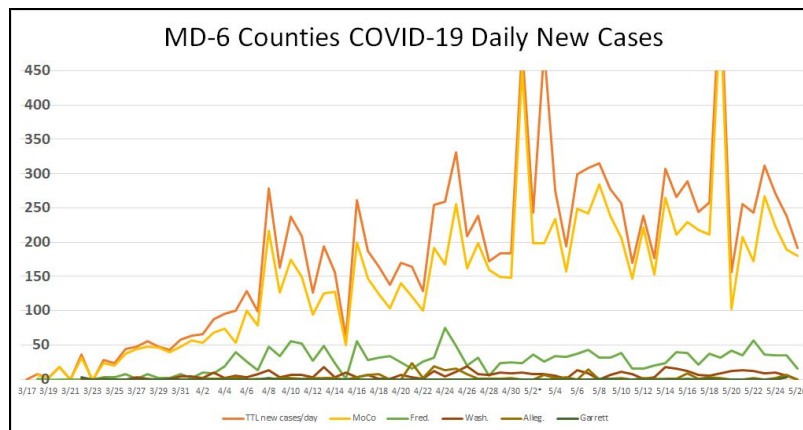
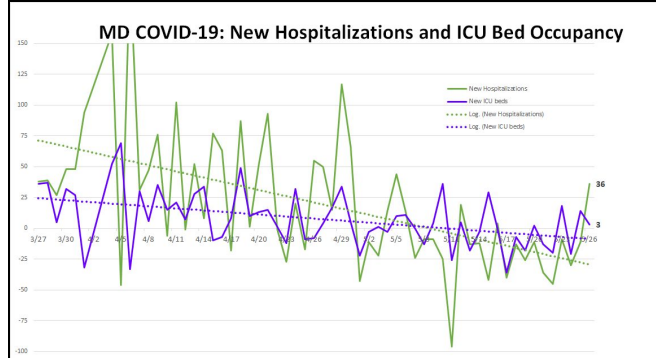
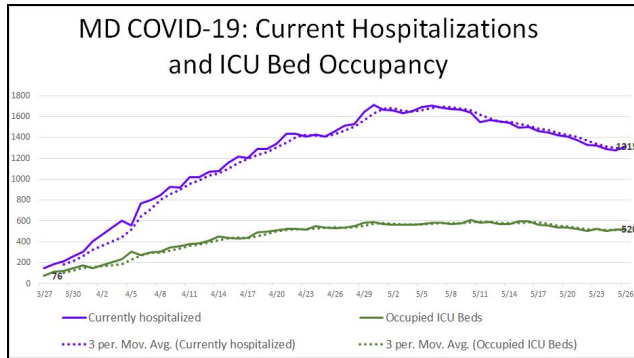


## Coronavirus Update: May 26 Congressman David Trone (MD6)

### Stats @ 5 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan is tracking trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to proceed with steps to reopen the state. Gov Hogan has given local governments flexibility for reopening decisions, based on local conditions.



Total cases reported: MoCo 10,291, Fred. 1,746, Wash. 413, Alleg.176, Garrett 10. MD 47,687, MD deaths 2,217.

As of 5PM, the U.S. had recorded 1,675,714 confirmed cases and 98,717 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

## Federal Updates

- Congress will “probably” have to pass more legislation to mitigate the damage from the coronavirus pandemic, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday. He added that the measure would have a more narrow scope than the \$3 trillion Heroes bill passed by the House. ([CNBC](#))
- Five states that started reopening in late April and May--Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee--are seeing increases in newly reported COVID-19 cases. Arkansas, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, which never had statewide stay-at-home orders but began reopening businesses early, are also reporting increases in new cases, according to [The New York Times](#). The numbers could reflect increased testing capacity. But experts have also warned that easing social-distancing measures too soon and opening too early could result in a virus rebound and “a second peak.” The latest figures came as the overall pace of new cases and deaths slowed in the United States, and some Americans began relaxing social distancing. Within the next 36 hours, the U.S. likely will record 100,000 deaths due to COVID-19.
- [The Washington Post](#) reported today:
  - More than 1.5 million people passed through U.S. airports during the Memorial Day weekend -- a significant increase from recent weeks but only about 13 percent of what it was last year.
  - New-home sales reported a slight uptick in April instead of a steep decline that had been forecast, the U.S. Commerce Department reported.
  - The House will return Wednesday and Thursday and will use proxy voting for the first time in its history.
  - Katie Miller, Vice President Pence’s press secretary, says that she has returned to work after three negative tests for the coronavirus.
- The World Health Organization has temporarily halted studying hydroxychloroquine as a potential COVID-19 treatment due to safety concerns. The move comes after [The Lancet](#) reported that patients getting the drug were dying at higher rates than other coronavirus patients. ([NPR](#))
- The New York Stock Exchange trading floor reopened today for the first time since March 20, with traders wearing masks and practicing social distancing. The exchange had been restricted to electronic trading for over two months. ([NYSE](#)). The Dow finished the day up 530 points.

## Maryland Updates

- Maryland’s statewide contact tracing operation will be fully operational this week, with more than 1,400 case investigators working statewide to trace and isolate COVID-19 infections. The state is working with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to assist local communities to build capacity to trace 1,000 cases and 10,000 cases daily. Investigators will call individuals who test positive within 24 hours to begin a trace investigation, and will then call others with whom the individual had contact to provide necessary guidance about monitoring symptoms and isolating at home. Caller IDs will read: “MD COVID.” Personal information collected will meet regulations and guidelines to protect privacy. Contact investigators will never ask for a Social Security number, financial or bank account information, or personal details unrelated to COVID-19. They will not ask for photographs or videos, passwords, or payment. ([MD announcement](#))
- Thousands of visitors flocked to Maryland beaches and boardwalks over the Memorial Day weekend, according to media reports, with about half of those observed on the Ocean City boardwalk wearing masks, as recommended. Click [here](#) for a county-by-county reopening status summary.

## District Updates

- Montgomery County
  - a. Tuesday morning the Maryland Department of Health reported 10,291 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 180 cases from the 10,111 reported Monday. According to the health department, 531 county residents have died from COVID-19. This is an increase of five deaths since Monday. The number of probable deaths is 36.

- b. Earlier last week, four of the six hospitals in Montgomery County were at maximum capacity for ICU beds, County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles said at a virtual council meeting Thursday. As of this morning, only two are at capacity and more beds are becoming available. "Those numbers are moving in the right direction but still a ways to go," Gayles said. ICU bed capacity is still a concern for the county.
- Frederick County
  - a. A bill coming before the Frederick County Council this week will seek approval for access to up to a \$100 million line of credit for a "worst case scenario" for fiscal year 2021. Finance Director Lori Depies said last week she hopes the county never has to access that line, but added it would give her and others access to cash, in case state income tax and property tax payments are delayed. The county was also able to lock in to a good interest rate, Depies said.
- Washington County
  - a. In a letter dated Friday, the Washington County Board of Commissioners asked Gov. Larry Hogan for authority to start reopening businesses that had been closed to help stem the novel coronavirus. Specifically, the letter asks the governor to amend his executive order so that Washington County, and other counties in similar situations, can determine what businesses can reopen, given local conditions. The letter notes that Washington County has fewer than 400 cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.
  - b. The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 rose slightly in the Tri-State area Monday, according to officials. Washington County's total number of cases increased from 408 to 413, according to the Maryland Department of Health. The county's death count remained unclear Monday as authorities have been reporting 12 deaths in the county, but the state listed the death count at 11.
- Allegany County
  - a. Cumberland city officials announced guidelines Friday for the anticipated return of city businesses and restaurants in a news release called "Reopening Cumberland." Mayor Ray Morriss said businesses planning to expand to outside space, including restaurants with outdoor dining capabilities, should submit a plan to City Hall. Although some officials, including Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, are calling for outdoor dining to resume, restaurants and bars are currently not scheduled to reopen until Gov. Larry Hogan implements Phase 2 of the Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery.
- Garrett County
  - a. Four residents and three staff members at Dennett Road Manor Nursing Home in Oakland have tested positive for COVID-19, Garrett County health officials said Sunday.